

APPENDIX K

Manual of Arms—Saber and Sword

K-1. General

- a. The nomenclature for the saber is saber, officer, infantry, revolutionary. The blade is 31 inches long. The nomenclature for the sword is sword, infantry, Army, noncommissioned officer, model 1840.
- b. The saber is worn by officers while participating in ceremonies with troops under arms, or as directed. It is worn on the left side of the body attached to the belt by the scabbard chain with the guard of the saber to the rear. The sword is worn by all platoon sergeants and first sergeants while participating in ceremonies with troops under arms, or as directed. It is carried in the same manner as the officer's saber.
- c. Figure K-1 shows the nomenclature for pertinent parts of the saber (sword) and scabbard.

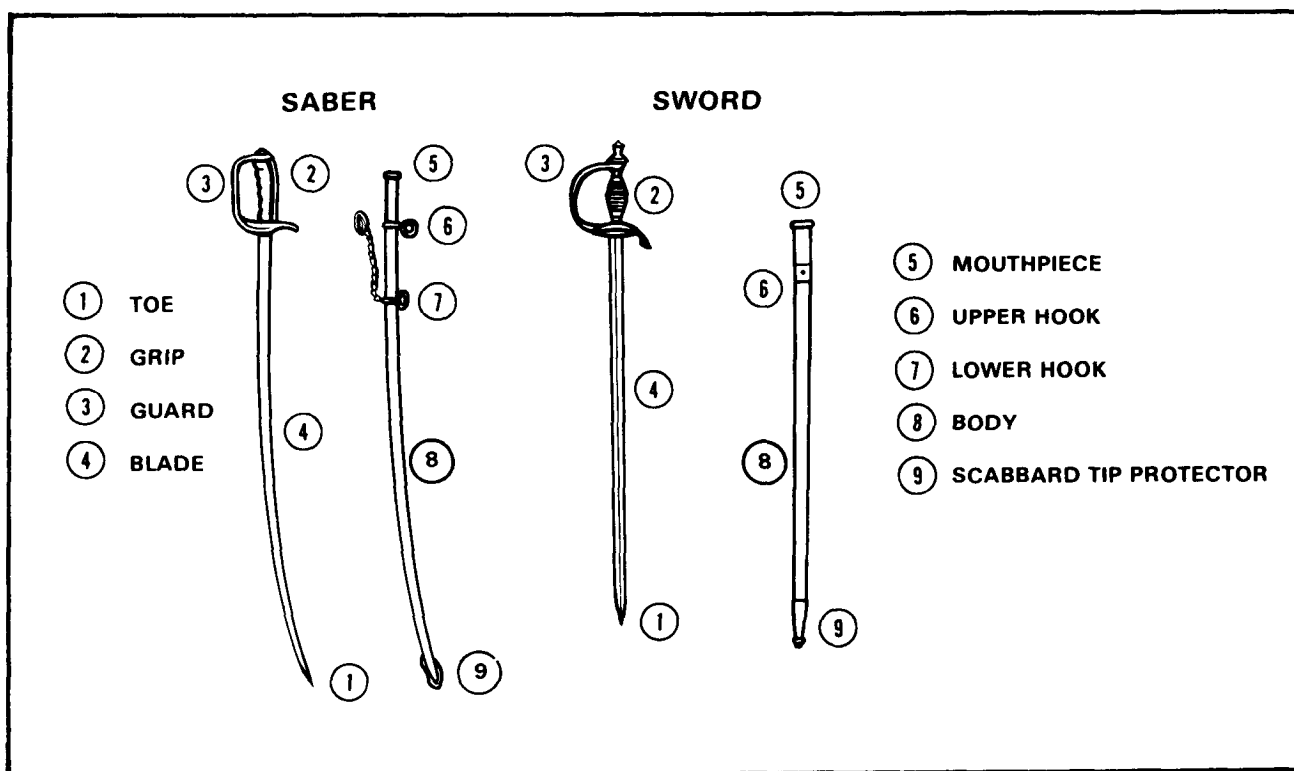


Figure K-1. Nomenclature, Saber and Sword

K-2. Standing Manual of Arms

- a. **Attention.** This is the position before the command **Draw, SABER (SWORD)** and after the command **Return, SABER (SWORD)**. The hands are behind the trouser seams and the thumbs touch the first joint of the forefingers (Figure K-2).

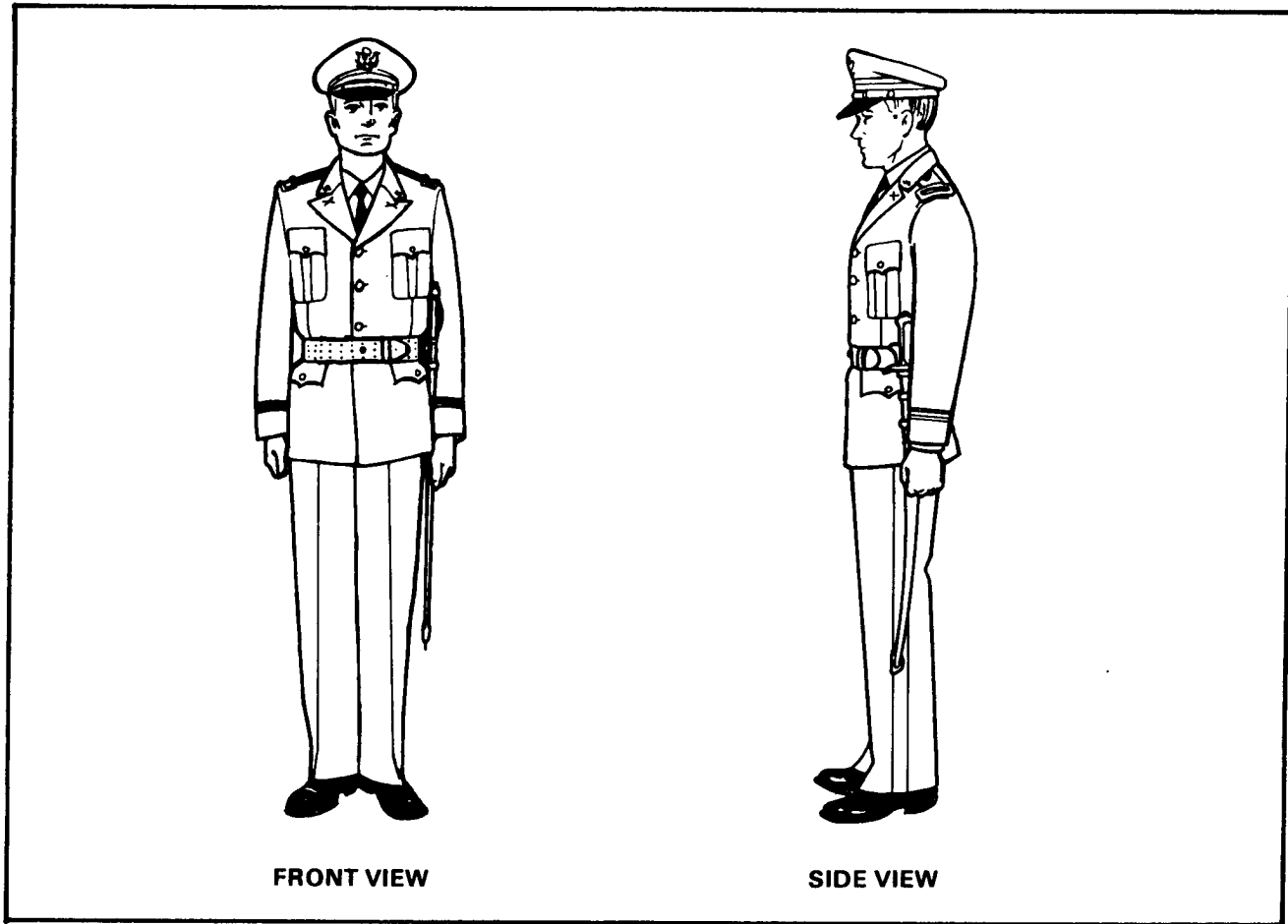


Figure K-2. Position of Attention

b. Draw Saber (Sword).

- (1) Figure K-3 shows the sequence for executing *draw saber (sword)*.
- (2) At the preparatory command **Draw**, grasp the scabbard with the left hand turning the scabbard clockwise 180 degrees, tilting it forward to form an angle of 45 degrees with the ground. Take the saber grip in the right hand and pull the saber about 6 inches from the scabbard. The right forearm should now be roughly parallel to the ground.
- (3) On the command of execution **SABER (SWORD)**, the saber (sword) is pulled out of the scabbard and held in the position of *carry saber (sword)*. The saber (sword) should be held with the inner blade-edge riding in a vertical position along the forward tip of the right shoulder (Figure K-4).

c. Carry Saber (Sword).

- (1) At *carry saber (sword)* (Figure K-4), the officer (NCO) is at the position of *attention*. The saber (sword) is held in the right hand; the wrist is as straight as possible with the thumb along the seam of the trouser leg. The point of the blade

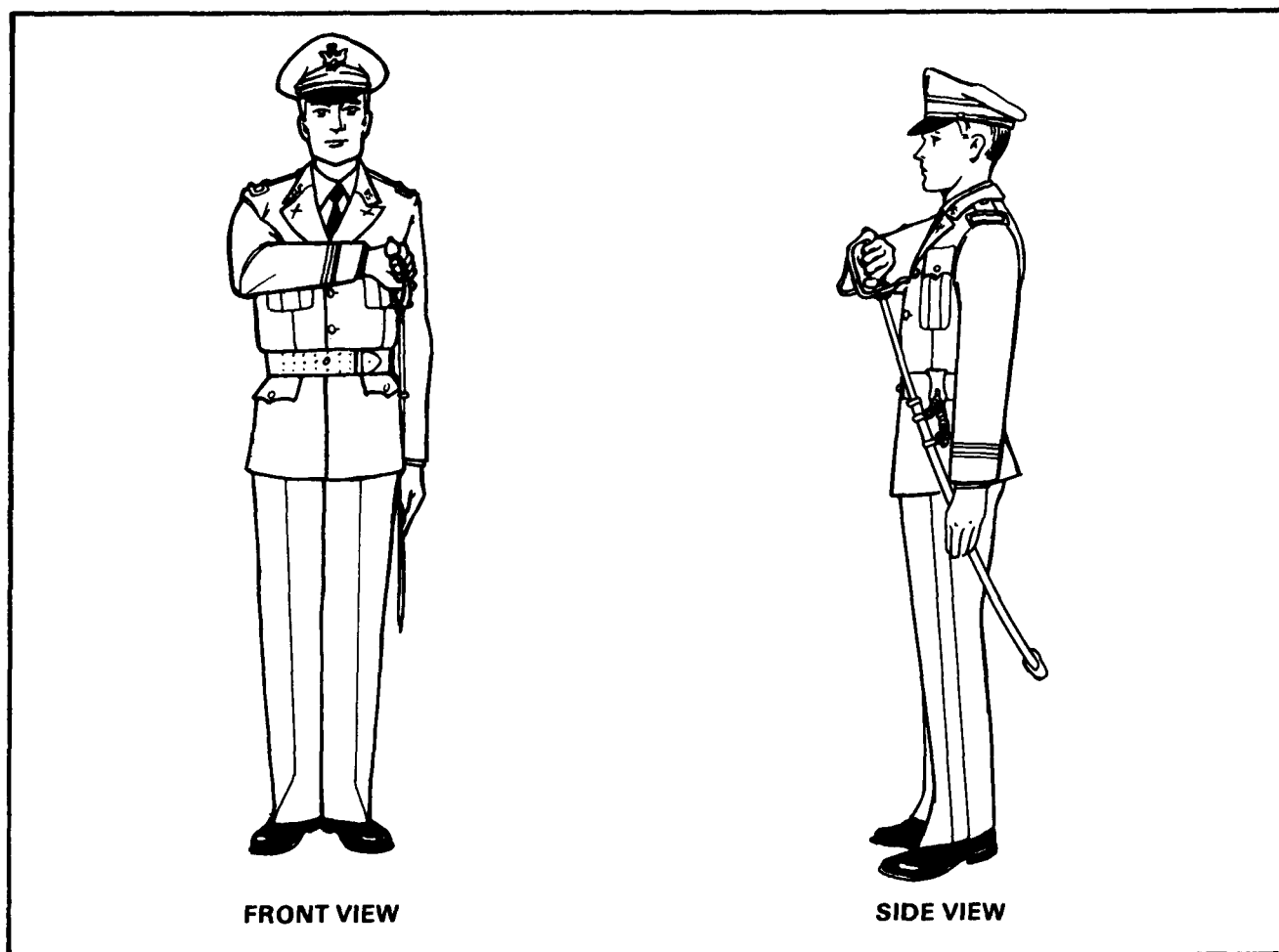


Figure K-3. Draw Saber (Sword)

rests inside the point of the shoulder and not along the arm. The saber (sword) is held in this position by the thumb and forefinger grasping the grip, and it is steadied with the second finger behind the grip.

- (2) The *carry saber (sword)* position is assumed under the following situations:
 - (a) To give commands.
 - (b) To change positions.
 - (c) By officers when officially addressing (or when officially addressed by) another officer, if the saber is drawn.
 - (d) By NCOs when officially addressing a soldier, or when officially addressed by an officer, if the sword is drawn.
 - (e) Before returning the saber (sword) to the scabbard.
 - (f) At the preparatory command for (and while *marching at*) *quick time*.
- (3) *Present saber (sword)* may be executed from the *carry* when serving in the capacity of commander of troops or serving in a command that is not part of a

larger unit. On the preparatory command of **Present**, the saber (sword) is brought to a position (at the rate of two counts) approximately four inches from the nose so that the tip of the saber (sword) is six inches from the vertical (1, Figure K-4). At the command of execution **ARMS**, the right hand is lowered (at the rate of two counts) with the flat of the blade upward, the thumb extended on the left side of the grip (2, Figure K-5), and the tip of the saber (sword) about six inches from the marching surface.

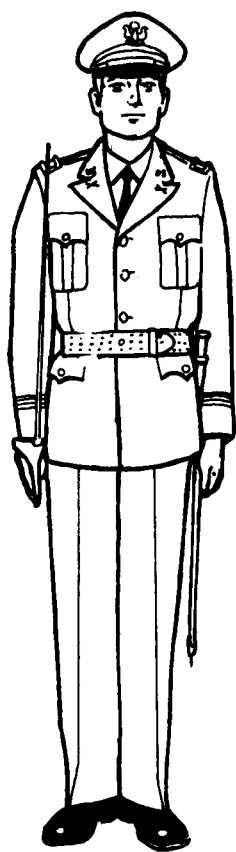


Figure K-4. Carry Saber (Sword)

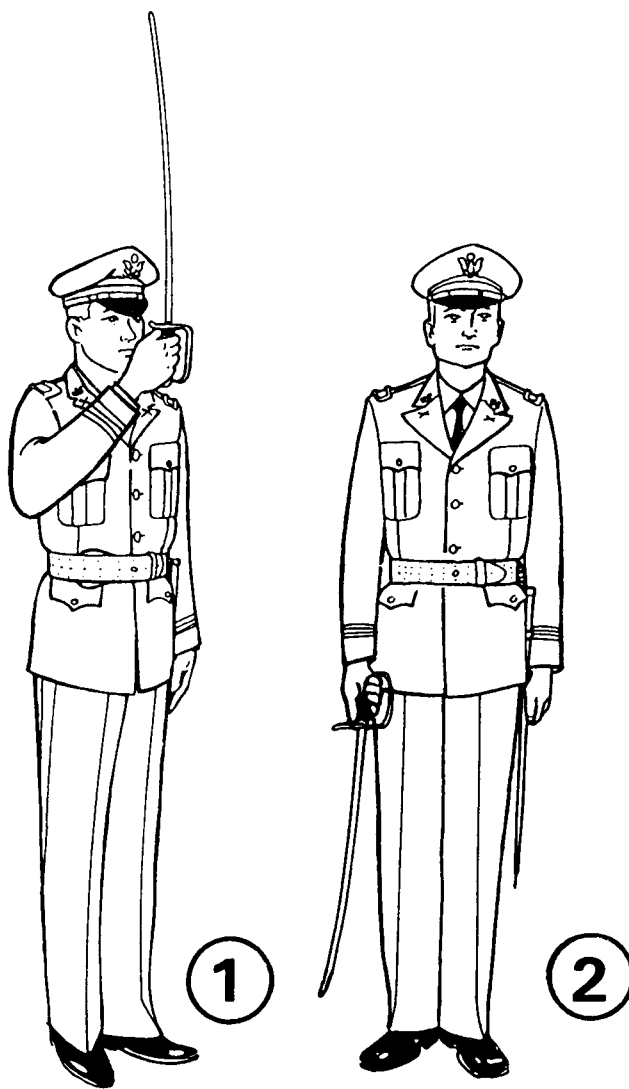


Figure K-5. Present Saber (Sword)

(4) On the command **Order ARMS**, the saber (sword) is returned to the position of *carry saber (sword)*.

d. **Parade Rest.** This position is assumed without moving the saber (sword) from the *order arm* position. At the command of execution, the left foot is moved

about 10 inches to the left (of the right foot), and the left hand is placed in the small of the back, fingers extended and joined, palm to the rear (Figure K-6). At the command of execution **ATTENTION**, the left hand and foot are returned to the position of *attention*.

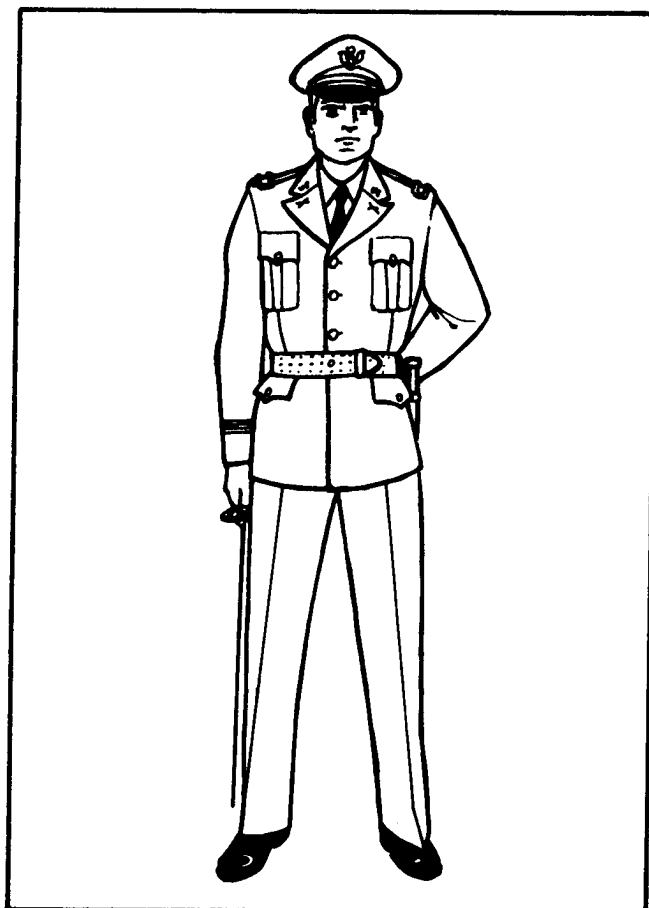


Figure K-6. Parade Rest

NOTE: When ever the saber (sword) is at the *order arms* position the saber (sword) is straight, not at an angle inward or outward in relationship to the body.

- e. **Return Saber (Sword).** This movement is executed from *carry saber (sword)* in three counts.
 - (1) At the preparatory command **Return** of the command **Officers (Noncommissioned officers), Return, SABER (SWORD)**, the saber (sword) is brought to a vertical position (1, Figure K-7). The forearm (wrist) is held parallel to the marching surface about three inches from the body; the guard is pointed to the left.
 - (2) At the command of execution **SABER (SWORD)**, three actions take place simultaneously: the saber (sword) is pivoted downward toward the guard, at the same time grasp the scabbard with the left hand just above the upper brass ring mounting. Tilt it forward and turn it clockwise 180 degrees. The scabbard

should form a 45-degree angle with the ground, and the saber (sword) bearer turns his head to the left and looks down to observe the mouthpiece of the scabbard (the shoulders remain squared to the front and level). As smoothly and as quickly as possible, the saber (sword) is inserted into the scabbard and stopped so that about 12 inches of the blade is showing; the right forearm (wrist) is horizontal to the marching surface and three inches from the body (2, Figure K-7).

- (3) At the command of execution **CUT** of the command **Ready, CUT**, the saber (sword) is thrust smartly into the scabbard, the scabbard is rotated so that its tip is forward, and the saber (sword) bearer comes to *attention* (3, Figure K-7).

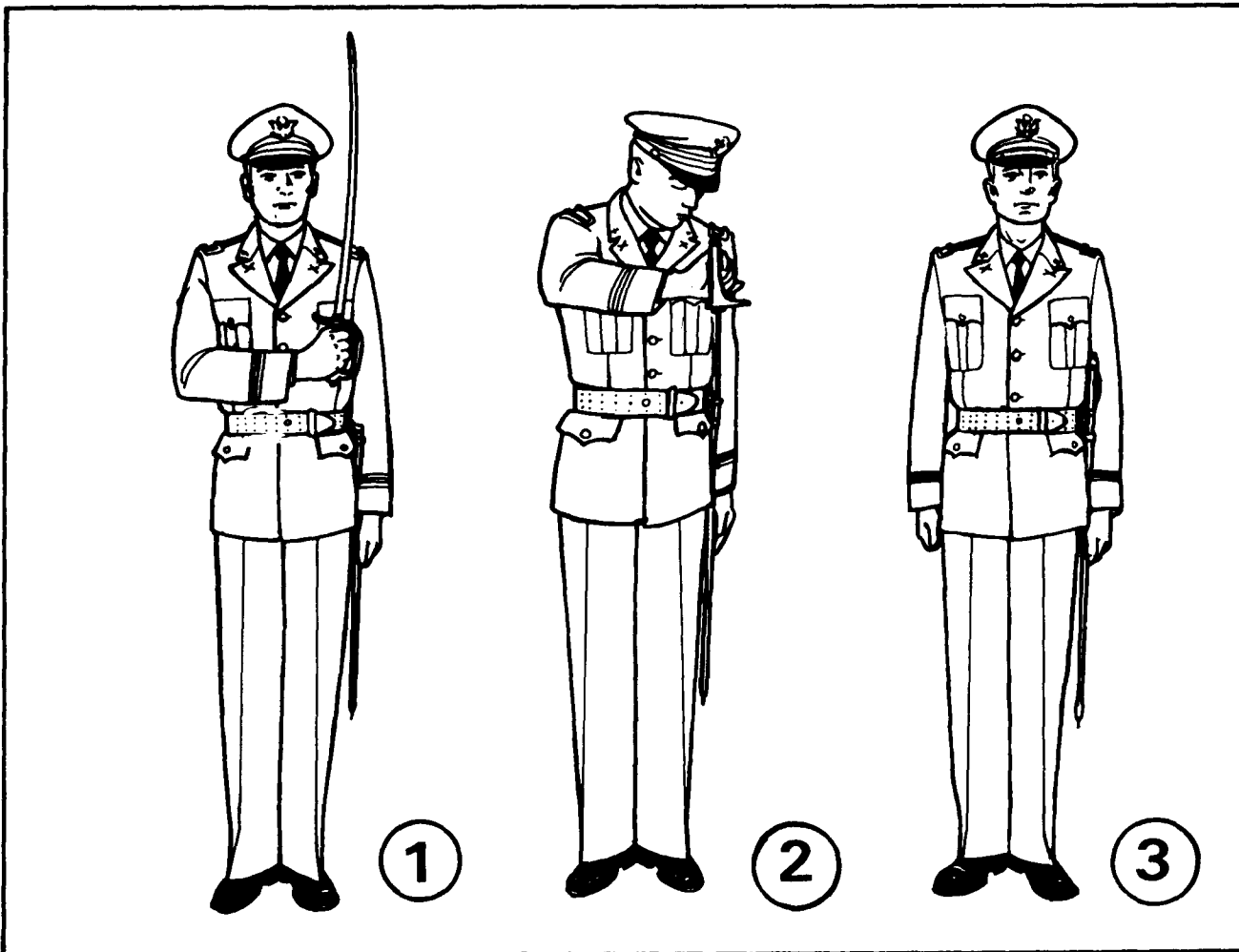


Figure K-7. Return Saber (Sword)

K-3. Marching Manual of Arms

While *marching*, the saber (sword) is carried (Figure K-8) with the inner blade-edge riding in a vertical position along the forward tip of the right shoulder.

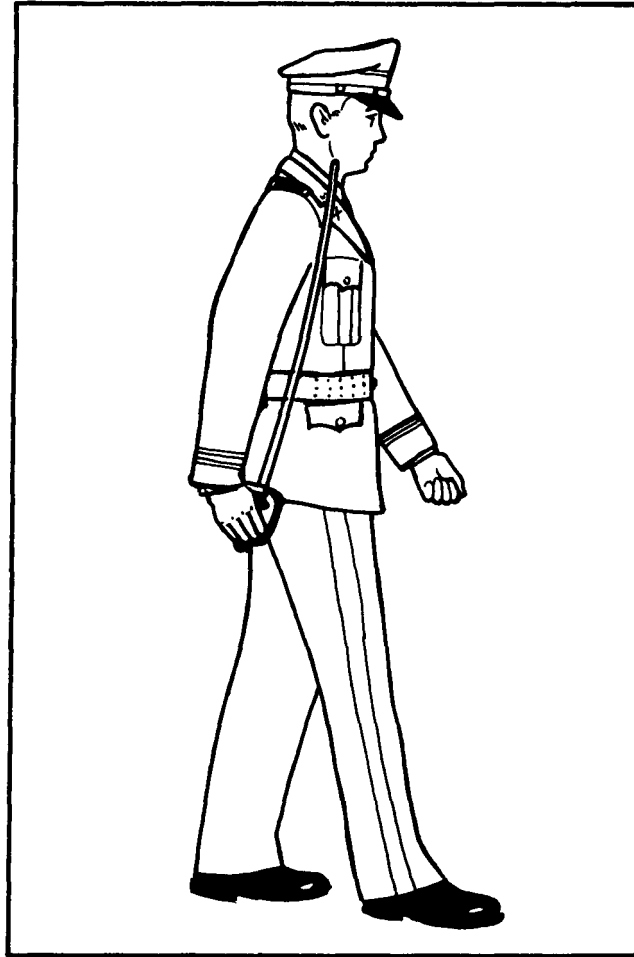


Figure K-8. Marching Position

K-4. Eyes Right While Marching

- a. The command **Eyes, RIGHT** is executed while *marching at carry saber (sword)*. The command **Ready** is given as the right foot strikes the marching surface (no action is taken). The second time the right foot strikes the marching surface, the command **Eyes** is given and the saber (sword) is brought to the position (count one position) of *present arms*. No action is taken the third time the right foot strikes the marching surface. The fourth time the right foot strikes the marching surface, the command **Right** is given. As the foot strikes the marching surface, the head is turned sharply to the right at a 45 degree angle, and the saber (sword) is brought downward (Figure K-9).

NOTE: The initial preparatory command *ready* is only used when *marching* with a guidon bearer.

- b. While *marching at present saber (sword)*, the right arm is swung naturally (nine inches to the front and six inches to the rear) in a vertical plane, flexing the wrist to keep the tip of the blade level (about six inches) above the marching surface. This requires extending the wrist on the forward movement and elevating the wrist on the rearward movement.

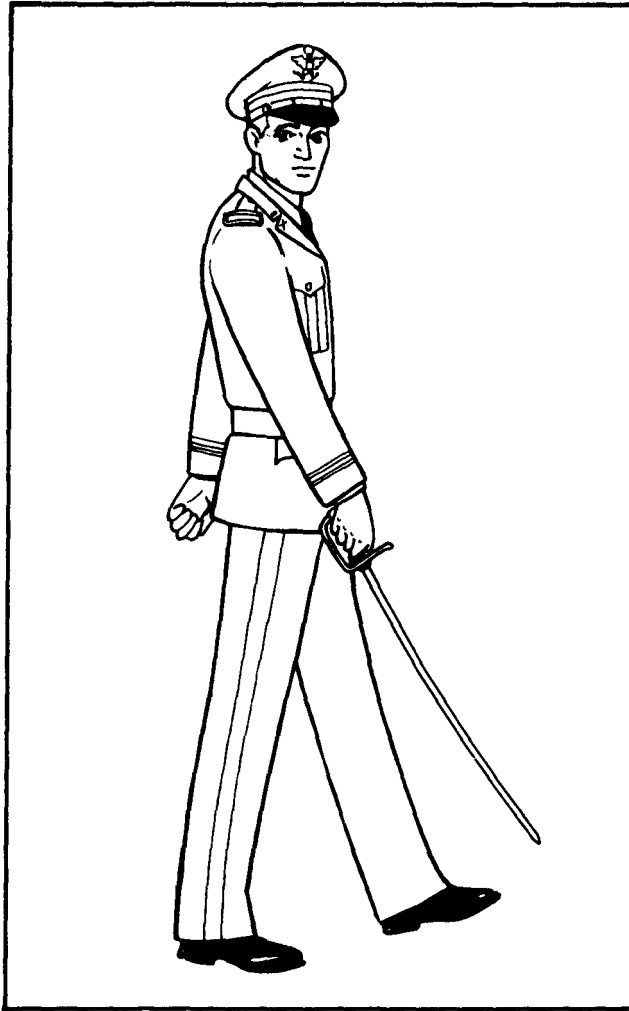


Figure K-9. Eyes Right While Marching

- c. The command **Ready, FRONT** is executed as follows: The command **Ready** is given as the right foot strikes the marching surface (no action is taken). The second time the right foot strikes the marching surface, a second command **Ready** is given (again, no action is taken). The saber (sword) is returned to the *order* position while maintaining the arm swing (subparagraph b) as the right foot strikes the marching surface the third time. The fourth time the right foot strikes the marching surface the command **FRONT** is given. The head is *turned sharply to the front* as the right foot strikes the marching surface and the saber (sword) is returned to the *carry* position the next time the left foot strikes the marching surface.

K-5. Port Arms

Port arms (Figure K-10) is executed on the preparatory command **Double time** of the command **Double time, MARCH**. This position is assumed only from the position of *carry saber (sword)*. The right arm swings naturally across and six inches in front of

the body. The saber (sword) is canted 45 degrees from the vertical with the guard pointed to the left. The left hand grasps the scabbard.

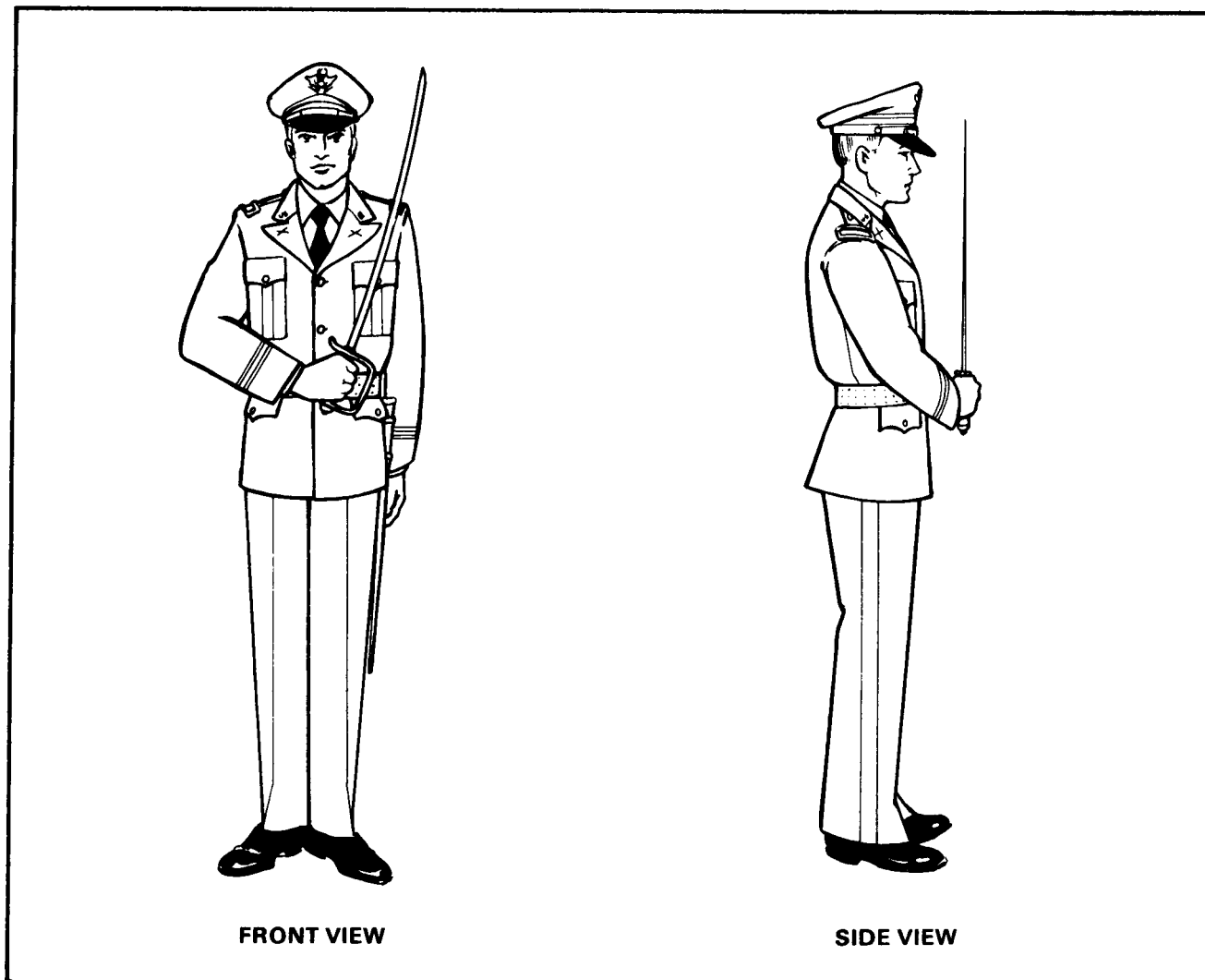


Figure K-10. Port Arms